

HISTORICAL HOUSES - NAMED, M-Z

Dr. H. C. Bumpus has been fixing up the old Weston-Knapp mansion on King Caesar Road, and, by the way, has made a good job of it. He has restored the old wallpaper which is very renowned, having been made over a hundred years ago, and is as good today as when it was put on. Amongst other things he has run across, is a cellar situated in one of the old sheds back of the main house. This cellar is quite sizable and its walls are of stone and very thick. Above this cellar which was about eight or ten feet deep, was a ring ^lboat evidently employed for lowering things into it. Here, undoubtedly, was the secret cellar where goods from the Far East were placed secretly to avoid duties. The Weston ships were anchored in the Cow Yard and the story goes that at night these goods were ~~rowed~~^{rowed} up the bay and placed in this secret cellar. Thus, avoiding duties. It has also been claimed that this story is untrue, and this was an ice house, but why, if this was so, should there not have been some drain whereby the ice water could have been carried away, which was not the case.

In those days it was not considered a crime to smuggle. John Hancock, one of the richest merchants of Boston, was renowned for this practice, so it was not surprising that the Westons followed the custom and smuggled in East India goods.

There was also a tale that this cellar was connected with the water by a tunnel. This is manifestly untrue, because no tunnel could have been built which would not have been filled with water at higher tides. The shed has been torn down, the whole cellar filled in, and over the place where the smuggled goods were concealed, motor cars now travel, ~~on their way.~~